VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2021

Hello International Alumni & Friends!

Warm greetings from Valparaiso University! As move into July, we are in the midst of fantastic Northwest Indiana summer weather with warm days, pleasant evenings, and lots of sunny blue skies! The cold, snowy winter during which much of the 2020-2021 academic year took place seems to be a distant memory.

And what a year it was, full of "storms" and unexpected twists and turns, with lots of online classes and not as many international food events due to the pandemic. Yet international students at Valpo persevered through challenges such as increased language barriers due to face coverings and strict international travel rules, finishing up the year very successfully.

Take a look below at the scholarship winners and highlighted events from on campus in spring 2021, and don't miss the notice for 2021 Homecoming, the International Alumni Spotlights, and ways to stay connected!

— The Office of International Programs (OIP)

Dr. Hugh McGuigan Scholarship Winners

Many of you remember Dr. Hugh McGuigan (*pictured above left*), director of the international office at Valpo for 25 years. Dr. McGuigan guided hundreds of international students and scholars during their studies at Valpo and remains active in international activities on campus (*above right, at a Chinese culture night*).

In his honor, Kunle Oguneye '97 and other Valpo international alumni started a scholarship fund in 2018 for current international students. In spring 2020, the first two recipients were named, and three more were chosen in spring 2021. Click here for full information on the scholarship, and take a look at this year's winner profiles below.

Kavya Hari '21, India

Earning her master's degree in information technology in May 2021, Kavya worked as a teaching assistant for several professors and also as an intern for the Office of International Programs. She became a great resource for helpful tips and advice to newly arrived international students in spring 2021.

Shreedhar Pandey '22, Nepal

A junior bachelor's computer science major, Shreedhar served as president for one of the largest student organizations on campus, VISA (Valparaiso International Student Association). He has also been involved in many other activities and organizations on campus.

Anand Agrawal '23, India

A sophomore bachelor's electrical engineering and physics major, Anand served as vice president for VISA and as a teaching assistant. Anand also works as an OIP student ambassador, offering front-line help to help international students who walk into the OIP.

Looking Back at Spring 2021

Every semester is unique with it's own memorable highlights! Here's a quick overview.

Val-pour-rain-snow! January & February brought lots of snow this year.

February Culture Night, March Peer Mentor Outing, April OIP Scavenger Hunt

April 19 International Alumni Virtual Career Panel (Click Here for the recording)

Get Ready for Homecoming 2021, October 1-3!

In-person Homecoming was not possible in 2020, but we are excited to see as many of you as possible in 2021! Current plans include a combination of in-person, streamed, virtual, and hybrid events. More details will be coming soon, but for now, remember these 3 things:

#1 Mark Oct. 1-3 on your calendar; even if you can't travel, you can attend virtually!

#2 Don't miss the International Food Bazaar, the best event! (yes, we're probably biased)

#3 Stay tuned for news about a special gathering of Valpo international alumni!

International Alumni Spotlights

Ramzi Sabella '82

After graduating from Valpo with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, Ramzi returned to his home country of Jordan, using his talents in a variety of jobs, primarily as a water/wastewater engineer. In 2001, he joined USAID in Jordan, working there for 17 years until he retired. He was awarded USAID's "Professional Foreign Service National of the Year" in 2017.

Read Ramzi's full profile here.

Saurav Prasai '20

Saurav completed his master's degree in information technology in December 2020 and is now working as a business systems analyst in Virginia. His best memories at Valpo are winning MVP of VISA's volleyball tournament three times, and the wise instruction of Peter Sedrak, adjunct associate professor of computer and information sciences.

Read Saurav's full profile here.

Stay Connected

The OIP and Alumni Engagement Office would be thrilled to hear from you through LinkedIn, the International Alumni Stories page, and ValpoConnect!

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY
WELCOME CENTER 1620 CHAPEL DRIVE, VALPARAISO, IN 46383-6493, USA · valpo.edu

Manage your preferences | Opt out using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.
View this email online.

Subscribe to our email list.